

St. Michael's, Felton Prayer for the Coronavirus

Our prayers for the coronavirus will follow the form of P.R.A.Y – Pause. Rejoice. Ask. Yield

Pause

As we enter into prayer, we pause to be still, to breathe slowly, to re-centre our scattered thoughts and feelings on the presence of God.

*Take a few moments in silence to still yourself before God.
Allow God's presence to accompany you as you begin.*



Rejoice

Amongst all the anxiety, fear and news, we rejoice that God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

You might like to say this ancient psalm of praise remembering God is bigger than it all:

God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
So we will not fear when earthquakes come
and the mountains crumble into the sea.
Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!.....
The nations are in chaos, and their kingdoms
crumble!
God's voice thunders, and the earth melts!
The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress.
Psalm 46: 1-3; 6-7

A prayer for ourselves

Father God, we ask you to protect us from the spread of coronavirus. You are powerful and merciful, let this be our prayer:

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. Psalm 57:1

Ask

There now follows *four* prayers for different people involved in the coronavirus outbreak.

I suggest you pause, reflect and add your own prayers between each one...

Lord of Peace (Jehovah Shalom), we remember those living in coronavirus hotspots and those currently in isolation. May they know your presence in their isolation, your peace in their turmoil and your patience in their waiting. Prince of Peace, you are powerful and merciful, let this be their prayer:

May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name. Psalm 79: 8-9

Pause

God of all comfort, we pray for those who are grieving, reeling from the sudden loss of loved ones. May they find you accompany their suffering, you comfort their loss and you bring hope amongst despair.

We name before you those known to us who are vulnerable – the frail, the sick, the elderly and those full of fear.

You might like to light a candle for each one of them.

God of all comfort, you are powerful and merciful, let this be their prayer:

God has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. 2 Corinthians 1: 10

Pause

God of healing (Jehovah Rapha), we pray for all medical staff who are dealing with this crisis. Grant them resilience in their weariness, discernment in their diagnoses, and compassion upon compassion as they care. We thank you for the army of researchers, working steadily and quietly towards a cure – give them clarity and unexpected breakthroughs today. Would you rise above the present darkness with healing in your wings (Mal 4:1).

God of healing, you are powerful and merciful, Let this be our prayer for them:

Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32: 17

Pause

God of all wisdom, we pray for the World Health Organisation, all governments, heads of schools, hospitals and community organisations. You have placed these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom as how to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight the fear, strength beyond their own strength to support organisations and people in their care in this time of turmoil.

God of all wisdom and counsel, you are powerful and merciful, may this be our prayer for them:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. Psalm 46: 1-2

Pause

Yield

Finally we put ourselves and those we love into God's care.

At this point, you may like to take the prayers and kneel.

Psalm 91: 3-7 reads:

Surely he will save you

from the fowler's snare

and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,

and under his wings you will find refuge;

his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,

nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,

nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand at your right hand,

but it will not come near you.

You might like to pray this for yourself and those you love followed by this prayer to God:

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

A prayer of blessing

And finally, a prayer of blessing for you:

May the Lord God Almighty who loves you, protect you.

May Jesus Christ, his Son,
who died for us, save us.

May the Holy Spirit, who
broods over the chaos and
fills us with his presence,
intercede for us and for
others at this time.

Amen.

